



Welcome to
Hillcrest Presbyterian Church (USA)

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Hanging Of The Greens

December 2, 2018

Prelude

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship with a moment of silence. (bell chime)

 **Hymn #1**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

A Word of Welcome and News from Our Church

Lighting Of The First Advent Candle

Choral Intro

Responsive Reading

The Angels' Message: Hear

Leader: Advent is a time to hear again of God's redeeming work.

People: Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Leader: Advent is a time to hear again of God's reconciling love.

People: Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Leader: Advent is a time to hear again of God's unmerited grace.

People: Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Leader: Advent is a time to hear again of our ultimate hope.

People: Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.

Candle Lighting

Choral Response

Closing Prayer

  **Hymn #5**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Decorating The Chrismon Tree

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?

People: By decorating the branches of the tree of royalty with symbols which represent the Kingdom of heaven.

Reader: The Lord promises to send the people a righteous king. (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days

Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

 **Hymn #23**

Angels We Have Heard On High

(Hang ornaments as we sing)

Solo

Jennifer McCullough

Hanging Of The Wreath

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, Our Savior?

People: **With wreaths of holly and ivy, symbolizing his passion, death, and Resurrection.**

Reader: Isaiah 53: 1-6

The prophet describes the redeemer of Israel as the Suffering Servant. Tradition holds that this passage of Isaiah describes the suffering of Jesus, who saved us from our sins by his death on the cross, and his being raised from the dead. In ancient times, the holly was considered the symbol of Christ's passion: its prickly leaves suggested the crown of thorns, its red berries the blood of the Savior, and its bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. The simple shape of the circle of the wreath – unending, without beginning or end, points to the eternal nature of Christ.

***Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.
Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;***

***upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.***

 **Hymn #9**

(Hang wreath as we sing)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Preparing Our Hearts

Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, the son of God?

People: **By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold God's saving work.**

Reader: Isaiah 7:14, John 1:1-5, 9-14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Responding To God

Prayer of Dedication

Offering

Offertory

Let us offer our tithes, our gifts and our offerings

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Preparing For Communion

Prayer Of Confession (In unison):

O God of love, O God of peace, we confess that we do not always follow your ways of peace. We are quick to express our anger at slights and perceived wrongs done to us and we are slow to forgive. We so easily fail to see our own wrongs done to others. We neglect justice, consume far more than we need as we seek what we call the good life. Forgive us for thinking that we can exist as an island of prosperity amidst an ocean of poverty and wrong. By your spirit make us aware of the needs around us and enable us to stand against all forms of evil, both those without and those within us. Renew us so that we might rededicate ourselves to be useful servants of Jesus who came so that all may have life abundant Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Holy Communion

Invitation (All who proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to participate)

Distribution Of The Elements (Will be served by intinction. You are invited to come forward and take a piece of bread from the common loaf and dip it in the cup as you return to your seat)

Lifting our prayers

The Light Of Christ

Reader: As we continue the preparation of the coming of Jesus, the Light of the world, we will light the Chrismon tree. In this Advent season, whenever we see a lighted Chrismon tree, let it call to mind Jesus who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness and peace to all who will receive him.

Hymn #2

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

 **Benediction**

Response

While We Are Waiting, Come

*While we are waiting come, while we are waiting come
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
With power and glory come; with power and glory come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
Come, Savior quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

- Postlude

 = Those for whom it is comfortable are invited to stand.
Today's Advent Readers: Jimmy Smith & Sammy Miller

Ushers:

Sam & Sharon Scott
Joanne Throne
Dee Smith

Fellowship Hosts

In Our Prayers

Our homebound: Harold Hiser, John Tranbarger, Fran Stansbury and Gusta Zweerink.

Larry Throne is recuperating from a quadruple bypass surgery.

Vi Brightwell had successful knee surgery and is now recuperating at the Maples.

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY

Diane Meester, December 1
Kaylee Robertson, December 3
Amanda Sigourney, December 4
Mary Morrissey, December 6
Jim Smith, December 6

CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY

Norm & Diane Meester, December 6

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Hanging of the Greens Service
Communion

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Caroling at Hulston Cancer Center, 2:00pm
Advent Series, 6:00pm
Choir, 7:00pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

Shooting Fellowship, 5:30pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

Men's Breakfast at Golden Corral 8am
Senior Dinner 11:30am

Van Driver: Sammy Miller
Nursery: Dianne Hutchins
Sound: Maddison Reynolds
Building Monitor: Leonard Throne
Greeter: Scarlet Cormack

The Food Pantry needs:

Canned Meat Jelly
Crackers Peanut Butter

Ongoing Missions:

Food Pantry
Meals on Wheels
Rare Breed meals
Ronald McDonald House meals



Crosslines will again collect lightly to moderately used coats for both children and adults in need of protection against the cold this winter. We will take the coats to Glo cleaners for free cleaning prior to delivery to Crosslines.



Last Week:

We collected \$3.70 which means as a congregation we had 185 cans of soda in our fridges.

This Week's challenge:

50¢ if you have a swimming pool

The choir will be caroling at Hulston Cancer center on December 5th at 2:00pm. All are welcome to come and make a joyful noise!

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Toy Wish List

This year the Crosslines Toy store will be held on Saturday December 15, 2018, at the E-Plex on the Springfield Empire Fair

property.

The congregation may bring unwrapped new toys to church anytime until Sunday

December 9th.

Each child will receive 3 toys, a small, a medium, and a large and two other gifts (knit items, books, or games). Please do not remove the price tag to make the grouping easier.

A small gift is less than \$10, a medium gift is around \$15, and a large gift is around \$25.

If shopping is not convenient you may give money to

Sammy, Rae Jean or Fred to allow Crosslines to purchase the needed toys.

0 – 23 Months

Diapers/wipes
Activity cubes
Sorting blocks
Pull toys
Walkers
Crib toys
Bath toys
Board books

2 – 4 Years

Books
Building blocks
Dolls
Push toys
See N' Say
Trucks
Trains

5 – 7 Years

Barbies
Books
Doc McStuffins
Legos
Musical Instruments
Star Wars

8 – 10 Years

Action figures
Barbies & dolls
Books
Craft kits
Cars, trucks, race tracks
Headphones
Lego sets
Sports Equipment
Star Wars

11-13 Years

Books
Bluetooth Speakers
Nerf Toys & Balls
Musical Instruments
Sports Balls & Equipment
Wallets & Purses
Headphones
Minecraft
Water bottles

Teens

Books
Blow dryers
Bluetooth Speakers
Coloring books
(age appropriate)
Hair Straighteners
Headphones
Curling Irons
Watches
MP3 players
Sports Equipment
Water bottles